



# Bitterroot National Forest

1801 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hamilton, MT 59840 (406) 363-7100

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Nan Christianson  
Public Affairs Officer  
(406) 363-7113, 531-1130**

### **Bitterroot National Forest Campgrounds opening**

Hamilton, Montana, May 3rd, 2007 — There are no better days ~ and nights ~ to enjoy your National Forests than the first warm weekends in the spring, and Bitterroot National Forest crews are out in full force, readying Forest Service campgrounds and day use sites for the new season of use.

From north to south, here's a run down of which primary areas are open for your use.

Located northwest of Stevensville, the Bass Creek Recreation Area, including Charles Waters Campground, is open with full services, as is the Blodgett Campground west of Hamilton.

The RV sites in the Lake Como Lower Campground will be open with full services beginning on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the Lake Como Recreation Area is open but services such as water and garbage won't be available until later in May. Day use fees and campground fees at the Rock Creek Horse Camp and Upper Como Campground will not begin until Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

"The Lake Como boat dock was set up on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the earliest we have had the high water and good weather to install the dock since 1997," stated Mary Laws, Recreation Program Manager. "In most years, we set up the dock in mid to late May, with our first busy boating day on Fathers Day. Last weekend, use was more like a June weekend than the last of April."

Campgrounds in the south end of the valley including Spring Gulch, Warm Springs, and Indian Trees campground will open on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Other sites including Martin Creek Campground, Jennings Campground and Crazy Creek Campgrounds are open with no services.

Continued...

Campgrounds and boating sites on the West Fork of the Bitterroot are open but many, including the Fales Flat, Sam Billings, Rombó and Alta campgrounds, are under construction. The campgrounds will remain open and Forest managers ask that recreationists use caution around equipment and work sites while FS Crews make improvements to better serve the public.

Skalkaho Highway remains closed, with an anticipated open date of May 31<sup>st</sup>. The road to Paradise is open as far as Fales Flat and is expected to be open to Paradise by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Forest offices are open from 8:00 to 4:30 throughout the week. Call any one of the District Offices or the Forest headquarters at 363-7100, for additional information about road, trails and recreation site conditions.

##